

or not album related data has been correspondingly written onto the film 182.

FIGS. 7(a) and 7(b) depict flow diagrams of the logic used by the microprocessor 68 to automatically print the album pages during the photofinishing process. After the photographic film 204 has been rewound into the confines of the film cartridge 180, and removed from the camera body 12, the film cartridge is delivered to a photo processor. A high resolution scanner (not shown) is preferably used to scan the negatives. Prior to or during the scanning process, the designated magnetic tracks 186 of the exposed film 204 are read by the photofinishing apparatus (not shown) to determine if the automatic album feature is present. According to step 110, and if the automatic album feature is not present on the magnetic layer 184 of the exposed photographic film 204, then standard photofinishing will occur. According to step 112, and if the automatic album feature is detected, then photofinishing apparatus, (not shown) connected to a computer network (not shown), creates a folder/path on an attached file server. The images, annotated text, and attached album directions are then digitally scanned according to step 114. According to step 116 and after the images have been scanned, the photofinishing apparatus creates an Image Pack for albuming and according to step 118 transfers it along with the album composition data to the newly created folder on the file server. According to step 120, a workstation (not shown) also attached to the file server executes software that takes the image pack along with the album composition data to display on the workstation's video display terminal (VDT) (not shown). According to step 122, the workstation operator then inspects the pages and corrects for any orientation problems per step 124. If any orientation problems are present, then they are fixed according to step 126. Otherwise, finished album pages are printed when the soft-display VDT looks appropriate.

While the invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment, it will be appreciated that various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Such modifications are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A hybrid camera system for effecting creation and organization of an album of photographic prints, comprising:

a camera housing;

image capture means for simultaneously capturing at least one optical image onto a photographic film and an electronic imager, each disposed within said camera housing;

display means for displaying at least one image captured by said image capture means; and

input means for selectively inputting album page related instructions, relating to said at least one image displayed by said display means, said instructions relating to the orientation and formatting, including sequencing and number of images to appear on prints of album pages made upon processing said film.

2. The camera system as recited in claim 1, wherein said photographic film includes a transparent magnetic layer having at least one magnetic track capable of receiving digital information, said input means including a magnetic head having means for writing said album-related instructions onto said at least one magnetic track.

3. The camera system as recited in claim 1, including a microprocessor having sufficient memory for storing at least one electronic image captured by said image capture means, and scroll means for selectively displaying said at least one captured image retained in memory by said microprocessor.

4. The camera system as recited in claim 3, wherein said microprocessor includes a plurality of listed options pertaining to the orientation and formatting of a displayed image in the album-like format, said options being presented by said display means, wherein said camera includes switching means for selectively choosing and enabling said options.

5. The camera system as recited in claim 1, wherein said display means includes verification means for displaying said album-related instructions as input by said input means.

6. The camera system as recited in claim 1, wherein said display means includes at least one liquid crystal display.

7. The camera system as recited in claim 6, wherein said display means includes a first and a second electronic display wherein said first display displays at least one captured image and said second display displays text information relating to the albuming of said image.

8. A method for selectively capturing images in an album-like format using a hybrid camera system including a hybrid camera having display means for displaying a captured image, comprising the steps of:

i) simultaneously capturing an image onto a photographic film and electronic imager contained within said camera, said photographic film having a magnetic layer including at least one track sized for receiving information thereon;

ii) displaying said captured image on said display means; and

iii) selectively inputting album page related data onto the magnetic layer of film contained within said camera, said album page related data including instructions relating to the orientation and formatting, including the sequence and number of images to appear on prints of album pages made upon processing said film.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, including the further steps of:

iv) unloading said photographic film from said camera; and

v) processing said exposed film, including arranging and orienting said prints according to said inputted data.

10. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein said selectively inputting step includes selectively adding alphanumeric data to a selected displayed image to be arranged in an album-like format; and said processing steps includes printing said textual information relating to said image in the album format.

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11. A camera system for effecting creation and organization of an album of photographic prints, comprising:

a camera housing;

image capture means for capturing at least one optical image onto an electronic imager, disposed within said camera housing;

display means for displaying at least one image captured by said image capture means; and

input means for selectively inputting album page related instructions, relating to said at least one image displayed by said display means, said instructions relating to orientation and formatting, including sequencing and number of images to appear on prints of album pages made using said at least one image.

12. The camera system as recited in claim 11, including a microprocessor having sufficient memory for storing at least one electronic image captured by said image capture means, and scroll means for selectively displaying said at least one captured image retained in memory by said microprocessor.

13. The camera system as recited in claim 12, wherein said microprocessor includes a plurality of listed options pertaining to the orientation and formatting of a displayed image in the album-like format, said options being presented by said display means, wherein said camera includes switching means for selectively choosing and enabling said options.

14. The camera system as recited in claim 11, wherein said display means includes verification means for displaying said album-related instructions as input by said input means.

15. The camera system as recited in claim 11, wherein said display means includes at least one liquid crystal display.

16. The camera system as recited in claim 15, wherein said display means includes a first and a second electronic display wherein said first display displays at least one captured image and said second display displays text information relating to the alburng of said image.

17. A camera system for effecting creation and organization of an album of photographic prints, comprising:

a camera housing;

an electronic imager which

captures at least one optical image, disposed within said camera housing;

a display which displays at least one image captured by said electronic imager; and

control buttons for selectively inputting album page related instructions, relating to said at least one image displayed by said display, said instructions relating to orientation and formatting, including sequencing and number of images to appear on prints of album pages made using said at least one image.

18. A method for selectively capturing images in an album-like format using a camera having a display for displaying a captured image, comprising the steps of:

i) capturing an image onto an electronic imager contained within said camera;

ii) displaying said captured image on said display; and

iii) selectively inputting album page related data, said album page related data including instructions relating to orientation and formatting, including a sequence and number of images to appear on prints of album pages made using said captured image.